

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, CCD

SUBJECT:CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

REF: (A) STATE 053094; (B) USNATO 1264; (C) USNATO 1358

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS TEXT OF PAPER PROMISED REF A,
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IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED REF B, PARA 3 (C)
AND REF C.

2. PLEASE COMMUNICATE FOLLOWING US PAPER TO POLADS:
BEGIN TEXT. IN RESPONSE TO THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON CHEMI-
CAL WEAPONS (CW) LIMITATIONS CIRCULATED BY THE DELEGATION
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION WISHES TO CONVEY ITS VIEWS AND TO INFORM OTHER DELEGATIONS OF SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CW FIELD.

AT THIS TIME THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT CW POLICY WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING LONGSTANDING ISSUES. AS PART OF THIS REVIEW WE ARE EXAMINING CW POLICY ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING ARMS CONTROL AND MILITARY POSTURE OPTIONS, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF CW ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSIONS IN BOTH THE BILATERAL (US-SOVIET) AND MULTILATERAL (CCD) ARENAS.

THE UNITED STATES, LIKE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND OTHER ALLIES, BELIEVES THAT THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A CW PROHIBITION MAKE CONSULTATIONS AMONG NATO MEMBER STATES IMPORTANT PRIOR TO NEGOTIATION OF A CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGREEMENT. BECAUSE OUR POLICY REVIEW IS AS YET INCOMPLETE, WE ARE NOT AT PRESENT PREPARED TO TAKE A DEFINITE POSITION ON SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES PRESENTED IN THE FRG DISCUSSION PAPER, THOUGH THEY ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN VIEWS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WELCOME FULL DISCUSSION IN NATO ONCE OUR POLICY REVIEW IS COMPLETED.

FOR ITS PART THE UNITED STATES IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. TO THIS END THE UNITED STATES HAS ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BOTH AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) AND WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

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IN THE US VIEW, FOR ANY APPROACH TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROHIBITION TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT MUST BE A BALANCED ONE. SATISFACTORY ASSURANCE MUST BE PROVIDED TO A STATE THAT IT IS NOT INCREASING THE RISK TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IN BECOMING A PARTY AND THAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT CREATED FOR ANY STATE TO GAIN A UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES OVER OTHERS. FOR THIS REASON ANY CW AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION.

E ALSO WISH TO INFORM OUR ALLIES THAT A SECOND ROUND OF WE ALSO WISH TO INFORM OUR ALLIES THAT A SECOND ROUND OF US-SOVIET BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON CW LIMITATIONS, PURSUANT TO THE JULY 1974 SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 28-APRIL 8. AT THAT TIME SPECIALISTS FROM BOTH SIDES WILL BE PRESENT FOR INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE CCD WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS. THE US REPRESENTATIVES TAKING PART IN THE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO FOCUS ON TECHNICAL

ISSUES RELATED TO CW LIMITATIONS AND WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING A JOINT INITIATIVE.

IN OUR VIEW IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT US-SOVIET INITIATIVE DURING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, TO BE HELD BEFORE THE SUMMER SESSION OF THE CCD; HOWEVER, A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER CANNOT BE TAKEN UNTIL OUR REVIEW IS COMPLETED. WE WILL KEEP OUR NATO ALLIES INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THIS LINE.

FOR THIS REASON AND BECAUSE CCD EXPECTATIONS APPEAR TO BE RELATIVELY HIGH REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TEXT OF A CW CONVENTION DURING THE CCD'S 1977 SUMMER SESSION, WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO COMPLETE INITIAL ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON CW BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER SESSION.

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THE UNITED STATES NOTES THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS ON THE AGENDA OF THE DISARMAMENT EXPERTS' MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL. DURING THESE MEETINGS THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL PROVIDE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF OUR POLICY REVIEW AND ON THE BILATERAL US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS. END TEXT.
VANCE

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